

FULFILLING PROMISE TO PHILIPPINE ARMY VETERANS

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in righting a wrong that has existed since the end of World War II. Around 250,000 Filipino soldiers fought alongside U.S. forces in World War II. In 1946, President Truman stated that it is a "moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Philippine Army veterans."

Forty-four years later, President Bush signed the Immigration Act of 1990, which offered citizenship to around 26,000 Filipino World War II veterans, but it did not include their immediate families. Today, the number of surviving veterans is dwindling. Fewer than 4,000 are still alive. Many of these veterans live in Hawaii.

It is our duty to see this obligation through and to take care of those who have fought for our country. We must lift limitations on immigrant visas and restrictions for their children. I ask you to join me in making good on our Nation's commitment to these service-members.

SECURING OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I traveled to McAllen, Texas, down to our border, to once again tour the intake facilities that are being used to process the tens of thousands of individuals who are crossing into the United States each year.

This problem has not gone away. Last summer, I spent time at home listening to my constituents at town hall meetings. The number one concern for Texans was the influx of illegal immigrants into our State. For Texans, this has meant a strain on our classrooms, a strain on our hospitals, a major strain on local law enforcement and our economy in general.

Last year, the President refused to come to the Texas border. The President so far has refused to govern. The President has refused to follow the rule of law and continues to turn our once-porous border into a wide-open space.

As such, we must do all we can to secure the southern border and send a loud and clear message to the child traffickers and to the drug smugglers who are taking children on a treacherous journey from Central America to the United States and setting them up for failure once they are here. We must end this human rights crisis. The correct way is to secure our southern border.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROPOSAL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week in his State of the Union Address, President Obama proposed to fund publicly the first 2 years of community college for all Americans.

As a former community college president, I am a huge fan of community colleges and the great educational opportunities they provide students from all walks of life. However, I am reminded of the old Peanuts cartoon where Linus says to Lucy: "Every time there's a good suggestion, someone brings up the budget."

Making higher education affordable and attainable for America's students must be a priority, but President Obama's \$60 billion proposal is the wrong approach for the Federal Government to take. Rather than yet another top-down Federal Government boondoggle, we need to focus on new ways to promote innovation, access, and completion, and we need to eliminate Federal impediments that prevent institutions from delivering higher education in more creative, cost-effective ways.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 26, 2015 at 12:47 p.m.:

That the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 38, relative to the death of Wendell H. Ford.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. SMITH, New Jersey, Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's ap-

pointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mr. SMITH, New Jersey, Chairman.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1533

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 3 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

DISPENSING WITH MORNING-HOUR DEBATE ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 6, 2015, regarding morning-hour debate not apply tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRIORITIZATION ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 514) to prioritize the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 514

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Human Trafficking Prioritization Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The International Labor Organization estimates that nearly 21,000,000 people are

subjected to modern slavery around the world at any given time and that the majority of the enslaved are women and girls.

(2) Congress authorized the creation of a Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (division A of Public Law 106-386) in order to directly assist the Secretary of State in his or her effort to coordinate a United States Government interagency response to domestic and international trafficking in persons.

(3) The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons monitors trafficking worldwide and produces the online and printed versions of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which is Congress' primary resource for human trafficking reporting, analysis, and recommendations on the United States and 186 countries around the world.

(4) The annual Trafficking in Persons Report contains tier rankings of each country on which it reports, and these tier rankings have become an essential diplomatic tool for promoting protection for victims, prevention of trafficking, and prosecution of perpetrators.

(5) Some countries have openly stated, and many others have confided, that dramatic improvements in the country's human trafficking record were directly related to avoidance of a low tier ranking in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

(6) Ambassador Mark Lagon, former Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (2007-2009), testified before the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on April 18, 2013, that "[T]he State Department does a tremendous job in producing a report which tells it like it is, offering objective rankings. Yet at times it pulls punches, typically due to the urging of regional specialists rather than the TIP Office's dedicated experts on trafficking."

(7) Ambassador John Miller, former Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (2002-2006), recently stated that, "Upgrading the status of the Office to a Bureau will not create additional bureaucracy—it will simply give JTIP and the Ambassador-at-Large who heads it equal standing with regional and functional bureaus at the State Department. That standing is absolutely essential for the issue to remain a priority, especially when multiple U.S. interests are engaged."

(8) The tier ranking process authorized by Congress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 has been in some instances compromised by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking subordinate stature within the Department of State.

(9) It is essential for Congress and the Secretary of State to be accurately informed regarding United States and foreign country successes and failures in the fight against human trafficking.

(10) The diplomatic power and credibility of the Trafficking in Persons Report is based on rigorous scholarship and scrupulous application of the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking and is undermined by political, rather than factual, tier rankings.

(11) Strong and effective anti-slavery policy requires that officials from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking have equal hierarchical standing with State Department regional bureaus and direct access to the Secretary of State.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State will be

more effective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 if the Office status is changed to that of a Bureau within the Department hierarchy;

(2) the change in status from Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to a Bureau can be accomplished without increasing the number of personnel or the budget of the current Office;

(3) a Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking would be more effective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 if the Bureau were headed by an Assistant Secretary with direct access to the Secretary of State, rather than an Ambassador-at-Large; and

(4) the Secretary of State should review the current use of the 24 Assistant Secretary positions authorized by section 1(c)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)(1)) and make appropriate revisions, consolidations, and eliminations, to ensure that those positions reflect the highest Departmental needs and foreign policy priorities of the United States, including efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

SEC. 4. BUREAU TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105(e) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(e)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking "OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING" and inserting "BUREAU TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking "Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking" and inserting "Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons";

(B) in the second sentence, by striking "Office" and inserting "Bureau"; and

(C) in the sixth sentence, by striking "Office" and inserting "Bureau"; and

(3) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2), by striking "Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking" and inserting "Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 or in any other Act to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall be deemed to be a reference to the Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

SEC. 5. REPORT REGARDING DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) for each current Assistant Secretary of State position—

(A) the title of that Assistant Secretary of State;

(B) how long that particular Assistant Secretary designation has been in existence; and

(C) whether that particular Assistant Secretary designation was legislatively mandated or authorized and, if so, the relevant statutory citation for such mandate or authorization; and

(2) whether the Secretary intends to designate one of the Assistant Secretary of State positions authorized by section 1(c)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)(1)) as the Assistant Secretary of State to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the reasons for that decision.

SEC. 6. COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST FOR 4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS THAT ARE DOWNGRADED AND REINSTATED ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST.

Section 110(b)(2) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST FOR 4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS THAT ARE DOWNGRADED AND REINSTATED ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (D) and (E), a country that—

"(i) was included on the special watch list described in subparagraph (A) for 4 consecutive years after the date of the enactment of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008; and

"(ii) was subsequently included on the list of countries described in paragraph (1)(C), may not thereafter be included on the special watch list described in subparagraph (A) for more than 1 consecutive year."

SEC. 7. COST LIMITATION.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for "Diplomatic and Consular Programs" to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials into the RECORD that they may wish to include.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as our House of Representatives continues its fight against human trafficking, I rise in support of this legislation, which is called the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act. This legislation will elevate consideration of trafficking issues within the Department of State to ensure that they receive the same attention as other diplomatic concerns. This is a struggle we have had for some time, trying to elevate these issues so that they are on par and given the seriousness that we have tried to drive here in Congress.

Congress created the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. We created that institution a decade and a half ago. We did it in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The purpose of this Office was to better communicate and coordinate U.S. Government efforts to combat both domestic and international trafficking.

In line with this mandate, the Office prepares the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which details anti-trafficking efforts of other countries and classifies countries as falling into one of three tiers based on their efforts to combat human trafficking.

These TIP Reports and their tier rankings have proven, as you know, extremely useful in helping our diplomats fight human trafficking. It allows us to transform this issue into a global policy priority. We know that foreign governments have made real improvements in their work to combat trafficking as a result of these TIP Reports; and the reason this is so, of course, is because, as you talk to foreign governments, they are very concerned about the threat of a low tier ranking. That gets international attention today. That is sort of the leverage that we have on these governments to pass laws that are serious about going after trafficking.

But we also understand that this annual exercise is periodically constrained by the Department's regional diplomats who fear we may agitate foreign governments when hard truths surface. A former Ambassador at Large on trafficking issues testified before Congress that the Department sometimes "pulls punches" and defers to regional specialists on the TIP Report's tier rankings rather than the TIP Office's trafficking experts.

This is what we want to counter because what we want is the maximum pressure for foreign governments to follow through on their international commitments to try to abolish human trafficking. By elevating the Trafficking Office to a bureau, this measure will give these experts the bureaucratic standing they need to ensure their concerns are fully heard, effectively leveling the playing field for this annual process.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of our Human Rights Subcommittee, for his years of leadership in this fight against human trafficking and for reintroducing this bill, which passed this House last July.

I also thank the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) specifically for his efforts, as we have traveled in Asia, to pressure these governments to end human trafficking.

I urge the Members to support this important measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 514, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act.

First, let me thank the gentleman from California, Chairman ROYCE, and the gentleman from New York, Ranking Member ENGEL, for their leadership on this issue. I particularly want to thank my outstanding colleague from New Jersey, Congressman CHRIS SMITH, for introducing this important piece of legislation and for the work he has done for so many years on this issue. This bill will elevate the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to the status of a bureau within the State Department.

Put simply, human trafficking is slavery. Victims of human trafficking

are deprived of their individual freedoms and suffer unimaginably harsh, coercive, and heartbreaking conditions.

Reports indicate that there is no place in the world where children, women, and men are safe from human trafficking. That means that every government in the world has a responsibility to combat this problem.

The United States has made significant progress toward responding to these crimes within our borders and abroad since Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000. Mr. Speaker, today we can take the next step forward by elevating the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to a bureau.

This Office is already doing incredible work. The annual Trafficking in Persons Report has become the global gold standard in assessing how well governments around the world are meeting this challenge and how serious they take their responsibility to eradicate this horrific practice. Their work is forging partnerships and driving innovation on how best to approach this problem, and the Office plays a key role in coordinating our whole-of-government approach to this problem. Elevating the Trafficking Office to a bureau sends a strong message to the world that the United States remains committed to combating modern-day slavery.

Passing this legislation alone will not end this despicable practice, and it is not a problem that we will solve quickly or easily. However, every step we take enhances our ability to prevent these crimes, protect victims, and punish those responsible.

Mr. Speaker, we passed the same bill last Congress. I urge my colleagues to support and pass this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, the author of this bill, but also, frankly, the architect of a long-running strategy in this institution, in this Congress, to abolish this form of human slavery. When I think of William Wilberforce, the one Member I know who exemplifies that spirit today is the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, who has worked on this mightily since the late nineties, and we are pleased that his bill is up before us today.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, Chairman ROYCE, for his very kind words and for working to expedite the consideration of these important bills. This is an historic week in the House as we seek to pass 12 bills to fight human trafficking.

As the prime author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of

2000, as well as reauthorizations in '03 and '05, I believe the bills under consideration by the House today will further prevent the horrific crimes of human trafficking, protect and assist the victims, and aid the prosecution of those who exploit and abuse.

I would also like to offer my profound appreciation to Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for ensuring that all of the hard work done in a bipartisan way in the House in the 113th session is not lost nor will it be delayed but, rather, immediately sent back to the Senate for action.

Leader MCCARTHY has explored numerous ways, in meeting after meeting with Members, again, on both sides of the aisle, to find ways to prevent, to prosecute traffickers, and to protect victims. His deep personal commitment to ending modern-day slavery has and will continue to make a major difference.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this bill on behalf of myself and the gentlewoman from California, Ranking Member KAREN BASS, who is the chief cosponsor.

I am proud to say the United States continues to lead the world in our trafficking responses at home and abroad, charting the course of best practices for other countries to follow. One of the most successful ways the U.S. transmits our best practices and ensures accountability for the minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking is the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the U.S. Department of State.

Over the last 15 years, this Office has been led by talented and dedicated Ambassadors—including the most recent one, Luis CdeBaca, with whom we work very closely—who have produced the annual Trafficking in Persons Reports, laying bare the record of almost every country for the world to see and summarizing the country's progress in what we call the annual tier rankings.

□ 1545

For the record, the TVPA established Tier 1 countries. They are the ones that fully meet the minimum standards prescribed in the law. Tier 2 countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making a significant effort to do so. Tier 2 Watch List countries are in a grace period and in real danger of becoming Tier 3 without real action, not just promises of action.

Tier 3 countries do not meet the standards and are not making significant effort to do so. Along with the embarrassment of being listed on Tier 3, Tier 3 countries are susceptible to sanctions by the U.S. Government.

Since the TIP Report's inception, Mr. Speaker, more than 100 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings—citing the TIP Report as a key factor in their new anti-trafficking efforts. It is a very robust effort in our Embassies, and every country of the world is a part of it.

We have found a system that works; but, tragically, it is sometimes misguided, muffled, and marginalized by unrelated bilateral concerns and by the internal structure of the U.S. Department of State.

As my dear friend, the chairman of the committee, said a moment ago, it was Ambassador Mark Lagon who talked about how they produce a great report, but then, typically, due to the urging of regional specialists rather than the TIP Office's dedicated experts, the ranking and the process goes awry.

The Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, or H.R. 514, will remedy this problem by keeping the fight against human trafficking from being lost in the politics of other U.S. interests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 514 will raise the status of the J/TIP Office to that of a bureau, ensuring that the leadership of J/TIP is present and has an equal voice at meetings with the other bureaus and the Secretary of State.

Former colleague, John Miller, an Ambassador at Large from 2002 to 2006 said:

Upgrading the status of the Office to a bureau will not create additional bureaucracy—it will simply give J/TIP and the Ambassador at Large who heads it equal standing with regional and functional bureaus at the State Department. That standing is absolutely essential for the issue to remain a priority, especially when multiple U.S. interests are engaged.

We are not authorizing the J/TIP Office to be larger, but for the excellent work of the Office to be consistently heard at a higher level.

In addition, the bill stops countries and other State Department bureaus from gaming the tier ranking system by limiting the time problem countries can use promises of action to avoid a tier downgrade.

Currently, a country can sit on the Tier 2 Watch List for up to 4 years with Presidential waivers, effectively stringing the U.S. along with promises to take action, but never actually taking action. After 4 years, by law, the country must be automatically downgraded to Tier 3.

The law worked very well in its first implementation in the 2013 reporting cycle, but we discovered a problem in 2013, when China was prematurely upgraded from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List. As the law is currently written, Mr. Speaker, China can, again, game the system with promises and no action for 4 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield the gentleman as much time as he might consume.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act will hold countries

like China accountable by limiting to 1 year the amount of time a country can stay on the Tier 2 Watch List after the country was previously auto-downgraded to Tier 3.

The Human Trafficking Prioritization Act builds on the successes of J/TIP and the tier ranking system for the sake of approximately 21 million people still living in modern-day slavery and, again, does so without increasing the cost of government.

The Human Trafficking Prioritization Act will give J/TIP the integration, it will give it the voice it deserves within the State Department, and it will ensure accurate accountability for countries failing to meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and, again, I thank my friend.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, seeing that I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have already mentioned the impact that these TIP Reports have. I want to point out that it is not every day that we can claim this kind of impact for a U.S. Government report.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have traveled and tried to enforce these laws know how effective this is. This legislation here would make the TIP Report an even more influential diplomatic tool.

I, again, want to thank Subcommittee Chairman SMITH for his authoring the legislation and moving it through committee.

I urge Members to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 514.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL MEGAN'S LAW TO PREVENT DEMAND FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 515) to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 515

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Angel Watch Center.
- Sec. 5. Sense of Congress provisions.
- Sec. 6. Enhancing the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
- Sec. 7. Assistance to foreign countries to meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
- Sec. 8. Rules of construction.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Megan Nicole Kanka, who was 7 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 1994, in the State of New Jersey by a violent predator living across the street from her home. Unbeknownst to Megan Kanka and her family, he had been convicted previously of a sex offense against a child.

(2) In 1996, Congress adopted Megan’s Law (Public Law 104-145) as a means to encourage States to protect children by identifying the whereabouts of sex offenders and providing the means to monitor their activities.

(3) In 2006, Congress passed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) to protect children and the public at large by establishing a comprehensive national system for the registration and notification to the public and law enforcement officers of convicted sex offenders.

(4) Law enforcement reports indicate that known child-sex offenders are traveling internationally, and that the criminal background of such individuals may not be known to local law enforcement prior to their arrival.

(5) The commercial sexual exploitation of minors in child sex trafficking and pornography is a global phenomenon. The International Labour Organization has estimated that 1.8 million children worldwide are victims of child sex trafficking and pornography each year.

(6) Child sex tourism, where an individual travels to a foreign country and engages in sexual activity with a child in that country, is a form of child exploitation and, where commercial, child sex trafficking.

(7) According to research conducted by The Protection Project of The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, sex tourists from the United States who target children form a significant percentage of child sex tourists in some of the most significant destination countries for child sex tourism.

(8) In order to protect children, it is essential that United States law enforcement be able to identify child-sex offenders in the United States who are traveling abroad and child-sex offenders from other countries entering the United States. Such identification requires cooperative efforts between the United States and foreign governments. In exchange for providing notice of child-sex offenders traveling to the United States, foreign authorities will expect United States authorities to provide reciprocal notice of child-sex offenders traveling to their countries.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act: